

Message Text

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SUBJECT: THE SECRETARY'S JULY 29 MEETING WITH ECEVIT

1. TURKISH EX-PRIME MINISTER AND OPPOSITION LEADER BULENT ECEVIT AND PARTY ATTENDED A WORKING LUNCHEON WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER JULY 29 AFTER WHICH THE DISCUSSION WAS CONTINUED FOR AN ADDITIONAL HALF HOUR IN THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE. IN ADDITION TO RECALLING EVENTS OF THE SUMMER OF 1974 IN WHICH ECEVIT AND THE SECRETARY PARTICIPATED, ECEVIT DISCUSSED CURRENT ISSUES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ALONG THE SAME LINES HE HAS TREATED THEM IN HIS PUBLIC AND PRESS STATEMENTS DURING HIS US TRIP.

2. ECEVIT'S PRIMARY INTEREST WAS IN THE AEGEAN, HIS POSITION BEING THAT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE HAS HISTORICALLY ENCOURAGED THE GREEKS TO BE INTRANSIGENT AND MADE THE SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS MORE DIFFICULT. IN THIS REGARD HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS REGARDING
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THE AEGEAN DURING BITSIOS' VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL. HE

ACCEPTED THE SECRETARY'S EXPLANATION THAT THIS DID NOT CONSTITUTE A SECURITY GUARANTEE AND THAT THE GREEKS HAD BEEN SO INFORMED. HOWEVER, HE ARGUED THAT MUCH OF GREEK PUBLIC OPINION VIEWED IT AS A GUARANTEE.

3. ECEVIT URGED THAT THE US GOVERNMENT ISSUE A STATEMENT BEFORE A CRISIS DEVELOPS OVER THE SAILING OF THE SISMİK INTO THE AEGEAN, URGING THAT GREECE AND TURKEY SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES IN THE AEGEAN THROUGH NEGOTIATION. THE SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT ANY SUCH STATEMENT WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE MENTION OF RECOURSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT AS A POSSIBLE WAY TO TRY TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE. ECEVIT AND AMBASSADOR ESENBEL INSISTED THAT REFERENCE TO THE COURT WOULD ONLY TURN THE GREEKS AWAY FROM THE MORE REALISTIC WAY OF NEGOTIATION, SO THE POSSIBILITY OF ISSUING A STATEMENT WAS DROPPED.

4. ECEVIT REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT THE COMMUNITIES ON CYPRUS ARE NO LONGER IN A POSITION TO SETTLE THE CYPRUS DISPUTE AND THAT ONLY THE MAINLAND PARTIES, IF THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE WAS CREATED, COULD DO SO. HE SUGGESTED THAT CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS COULD BE MATCHED BY CONCESSIONS IN THE AEGEAN. HE THOUGHT INITIAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REACHED BY A MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE DID NOT SUGGEST ANY TERMS FOR SETTLEMENT EITHER IN THE AEGEAN OR ON CYPRUS. HE DID, HOWEVER, MAKE IT CLEAR THAT TURKEY COULD NEVER ACCEPT BEING EXCLUDED FROM A SHARE OF THE RESOURCES OF THE AEGEAN SEABED.

5. ECEVIT, WITHOUT GREAT CONVICTION, SAID HE THOUGHT HIS PARTY WOULD WIN AN ELECTION IF IT WERE HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID THAT IF HE WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO POWER, HE HOPED HE COULD HAVE A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THIRD WORLD LEADERS SUCH AS QADHAFI.

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